

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: 12/26/56

SUBJECT: King Saud's Desire to Visit United States

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. James T. Duce, Vice President, ARAMCO
Mr. Homer Mueller, ARAMCO

David D. Newsom, NE

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Mr. Duce, at lunch, showed Mr. Newsom a letter from ARAMCO headquarters at Dhahran reporting a conversation between Mr. Davies and Mr. Keyes and King Saud about the King's interest in visiting the United States. The letter said that the King very much wished to come to the United States and that he hoped that, if he came, he could come part of the way by sea. Mr. Duce said he believed the King was fearful that too long an air trip might adversely affect his remaining vision. The letter stated that the King definitely did not wish to come via the United Kingdom or France.

Mr. Newsom acknowledged that an invitation to King Saud was under consideration, but said that plans were not yet definite.

Mr. Duce and Mr. Mueller emphasized the responsibilities which ARAMCO would have during such a visit and asked to be kept informed.

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